

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A modular body for a vehicle, comprising:
a first module having a first B-pillar interface; and
a second module having a second B-pillar interface;
wherein the first and second modules are joined at the first and second B-pillar interfaces defining a B-pillar thereat.
2. The modular body of Claim 1, wherein:
the first module includes two side portions and an underbody portion;
the second module includes two side portions and an underbody portion; and
the underbody portions of the first and second modules make up an underbody portion of the vehicle.
3. The modular body of Claim 2, wherein:
the first module includes a top portion; and
the second module includes a top portion.
4. The modular body of Claim 1, wherein the second module further includes a third B-pillar interface, and further comprising:
a third module having a fourth B-pillar interface;
wherein the second and third modules are joined at the third and fourth B-pillar interfaces defining a second B-pillar thereat.
5. The modular body of Claim 1, wherein the first B-pillar interface is outboard of the second B-pillar interface.
6. The modular body of Claim 1, wherein the first and second B-pillar interfaces are slidably engaged with each other.

7. The modular body of Claim 6, further comprising a weld at the B-pillar interfaces.

8. A modular body for a vehicle, comprising:
a first module defining a first passenger compartment and having a first B-pillar interface; and

a second module defining a second passenger compartment and having a second B-pillar interface;

wherein the first B-pillar interface is disposed proximate the second B-pillar interface defining a B-pillar thereat.

9. The modular body of Claim 8, further comprising:
a complete underbody made up from an underbody of the first module and an underbody of the second module. ;

10. The modular body of Claim 8, wherein the first module has a first A-pillar interface, and further comprising:

a third module defining an engine compartment and having a second A-pillar interface;

wherein the first A-pillar interface is disposed proximate the second A-pillar interface defining an A-pillar thereat.

11. The modular body of Claim 10, wherein the second module has a first C-pillar interface, and further comprising:

a fourth module defining a storage compartment and having a second C-pillar interface;

wherein the first C-pillar interface is disposed proximate the second C-pillar interface defining a C-pillar thereat.

12. The modular body of Claim 11, further comprising a weld at the A-pillar, the B-pillar, the C-pillar, or any combination thereof comprising at least one of the foregoing pillars.

13. A method for assembling a vehicle body, comprising:
engaging a first module having a first B-pillar interface with a second module having a second B-pillar interface such that the first and second B-pillar interfaces are disposed proximate each other, the first module defining a first passenger compartment, the second module defining a second passenger compartment; and
joining together the first and second B-pillar interfaces defining a B-pillar thereat.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the joining comprises at least one of mechanical, adhesive, adhesive-mechanical, metallurgical, and adhesive-metallurgical bonding.

15. The method of Claim 13, wherein the first module includes a first A-pillar interface, and further comprising:
engaging a third module having a second A-pillar interface with the first module such that the first and second A-pillar interfaces are disposed proximate each other, the third module defining an engine compartment; and
joining together the first and second A-pillar interfaces defining an A-pillar thereat.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the second module includes a first C-pillar interface, and further comprising:
engaging a fourth module having a second C-pillar interface with the second module such that the first and second C-pillar interfaces are disposed proximate each other, the fourth module defining a storage compartment; and
joining together the first and second C-pillar interfaces defining a C-pillar thereat.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein the joining together the A-pillar and the C-pillar interfaces comprises at least one of mechanical, adhesive, adhesive-mechanical, metallurgical, and adhesive-metallurgical bonding.

18. The method of Claim 13, wherein the joining comprises slidably engaging the first and second B-pillar interfaces with each other.